

TO: Connie Rogers, DHMM, Central Office

DATE: April 10, 1984

FROM: Steve Tuckerman, DHMM, Northeast District Office

SUBJECT: U.S. Steel Lorain - #02-47-0108

U.S. Steel Lorain has operated a hazardous waste landfill for K087 (decanter tank tar sludge from production of coke) and D008 (leaded steel grinder dust). Their ground water monitoring program demonstrated statistically significant differences of indicator parameters (pH, specific conductance, TOH, TOC) in their downgradient wells. Additional sampling revealed the presence of naphthalene, phenol and a phthalate in the ground water. U.S. Steel claims that the levels found in the ground water does not warrant any action other than continued monitoring since the ground water flows directly to the Black River and is there by diluted. OEPA informed U.S. Steel that this stance was not acceptable. U.S. Steel replied that they were sticking to their guns and would only continue to monitor the ground water. While these discussions were going on, the coke plant at the Lorain Works closed down and a decision by U.S. Steel was made to close the landfill as well. The submitted closure plan states that only monitoring of the ground water will be done. Therefore, before we decide whether or not to press the issue for additional requirements to clean-up the ground water, we would like an opinion as to the degree of risk associated with these contaminants at current concentrations. See attached data. (I guess what I'm looking for is information to decide if remedial action for ground water clean-up is justified). Please note that the Black River near U.S. Steel has a population of catfish with a high incidence (33%) of liver tumor. It is speculated that PAH's in the sediments are the cause of the tumors. Could this disposal site contribute to the problem?

Thanks for looking into this. Give me a call if you have questions.

ST:km

Attachment

cc: Kim Griffith, DHMM, Central Office
Ed Kitchen, DHMM, Central Office

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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